THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) A total number of 43 compensation cases are still pending with the Government of Myanmar. The Embassy of India has been regularly taking up these cases with the Myanmar authorities. However, it appears that due to financial constraints, the Government of Myanmar is unable to settle these cases.

(d) In the recently concluded bilateral Foreign Office Consultations (November 24-28, 2002), it has been agreed that all pending consular and financial matters will be taken up at the official level. The Government of Myanmar has invited an official delegation to visit Yangon for discussion on the matter. The modalities for the meeting are being worked out.

Indian Consulate at Jalalabad in Afghanistan

2276. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Afgan Government has refused India to open its Consulate at Jalalabad; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to open an office at Jalalabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Indian Missions without Heads

2277. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Indian Missions abroad are without regular heads;

(b) if so, the names of such Missions and since when they are without heads; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to fill up these vacancies without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No. There are six Indian

Missions abroad where there are no Heads of Missions in position at present. These Indian Missions are in Sudan, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Indonesia and Suriname. The post of Head of Indian Mission in Sudan is vacant since 17th December, 2001, Pakistan since 25th December, 2001, Republic of Korea since 8th August, 2002, Mongolia since 16th October, 2002, Indonesia since 30th October, 2002 and Suriname since 8th November, 2002. Government had withdrawn the High Commissioner from Pakistan following the December, 13 attack on our Parliament and the absence of any effective steps taken by the Government of Pakistan to put an end to cross border infiltration and terrorism.

(c) New Heads of Missions for Sudan, Republic of Korea and Indonesia have already been nominated and will be moving very shortly after completion of certain mandatory formalities. Necessary action is in hand regarding the appointment of Heads of Missions in Mongolia and Suriname.

Infrastructure for cross border terrorism in PoK

2278. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is reluctant to dismantle the infrastructure for cross border terrorism in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir;

(b) whether the United States has urged India to consider going back to the round table talk with Pakistan and want to see rail and air links restored between the two countries; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) President Musharraf in his address to the nation on 12th January and 27th May, 2002 gave a commitment that Pakistan would not allow its territory to be used for any terrorist activity anywhere in the world and no organization would be allowed to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir. However, cross border infiltration and terrorist violence has continued. Even though Pakistan took some action against some terrorist groups and arrested some low-level cadres, there is no evidence of any firm action against the infrastructure in Pakistan that supports cross border terrorism.